

# ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION

Northfield Energy Committee  
April 2018



# Northfield Town Energy Committee

## Mission statement

“The Northfield Energy Committee is working on behalf of the Town to help *stabilize energy costs, lower the Town’s carbon emissions, and reduce our dependence on non-renewable energy* sources. We accomplish this by promoting energy conservation through education, energy efficient design and construction techniques, and the use of renewable energy.”

## Membership

Lynn Hansell, co-chair

Susan O’Connor, co-chair

Annie Chappell

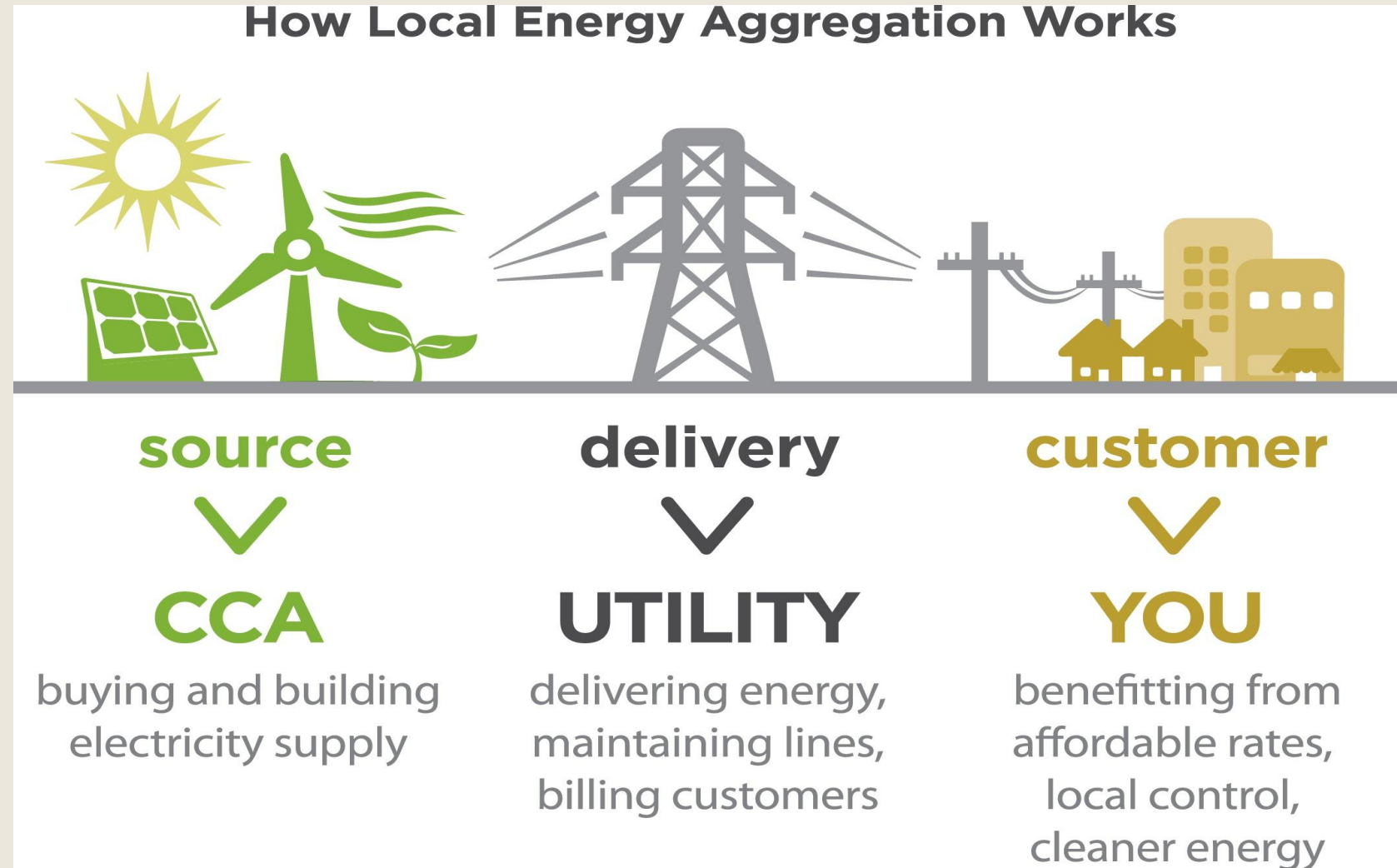
Steve Roberto

Andrew Vernon

Judy Wagner

# What is electricity aggregation?

Electricity aggregation is the **bulk purchase of electricity** for a city or town on behalf of residential and small business customers. It was authorized in 1997 by Mass General Law Chapter 164, Section 134.



# Not all aggregations are created equal

## **Class 1**

Wind, solar, digester gas  
that began after 1997 and  
feed directly into New  
England grid

## **Class 2**

Projects that were in  
commercial operation  
before 1998

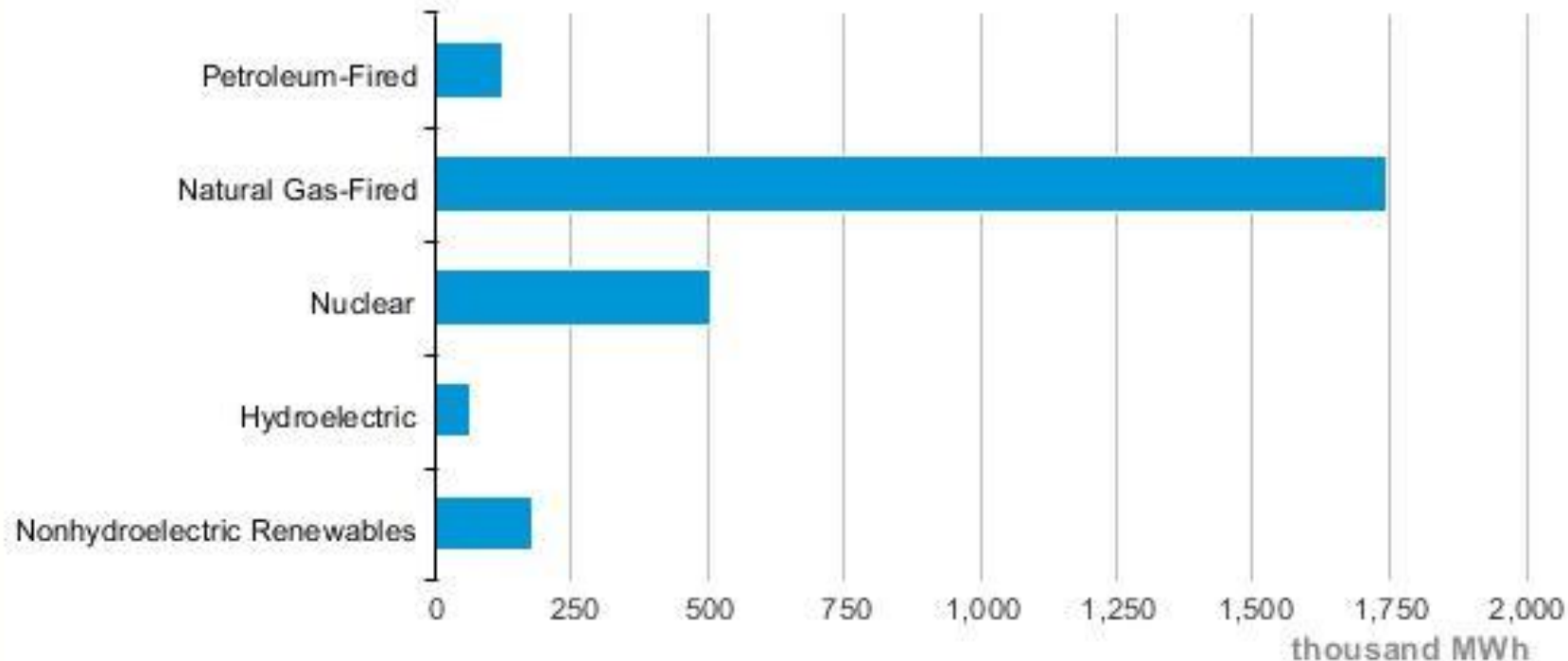
# What is Green Municipal Aggregation (GMA)?

- A model of aggregation in which the default option includes a commitment to at least 5% more Massachusetts Class I resources than the minimum percentage required by the state's renewable portfolio standard (Law that mandates a certain percentage of electricity to come from renewable energy). Class 1 comes from wind, solar, hydro, biomass built since 1997.

# Where does our power come from now?

## Present power generation:

**Massachusetts Net Electricity Generation by Source, Dec. 2017**



# Why choose green municipal aggregation (GMA)?

- Help to meet Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act for 80% emissions reduction by 2050 through this voluntary purchase of renewable electricity.
- Gain more local control of purchasing
- Broader choice of green electricity and displace fossil fuel generation and consumption
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Become part of building capacity of New England renewable energy development
- Can lead to better pricing through economies of scale

# More reasons...

- Reduces emissions from lighting and appliances
- Reduces carbon-sourced energy for electric car charging
- Help create green jobs
- Social justice: Can help reduce siting of large-scale polluting facilities in disadvantaged communities

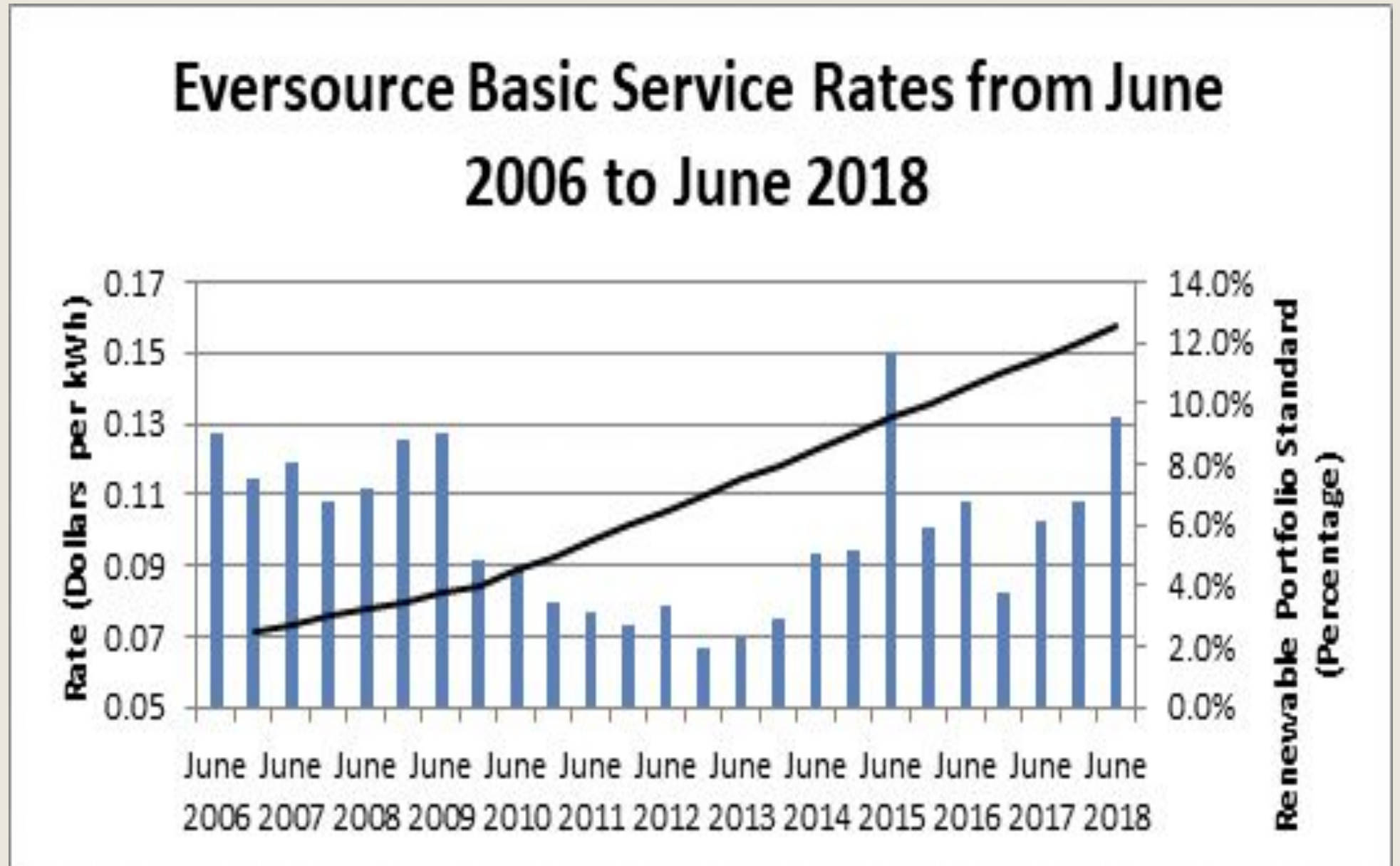


# A citizen's perspective

*“Although the state requires that 12% of all electricity purchased come from new renewable sources, increasing 1% every year, at that rate the state will not be able to meet its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by the year 2050.”*

Tommy Vitolo, PhD, Town Meeting Member Pct 6 Brookline, MA

“But won’t green energy drive costs up?”



# Growing involvement in Massachusetts

- 27 Towns in Southeastern MA
- Arlington, Somerville, Brookline, Sudbury (GMA)
- Franklin County towns: Greenfield, Heath, Leverett, Orange, Wendell

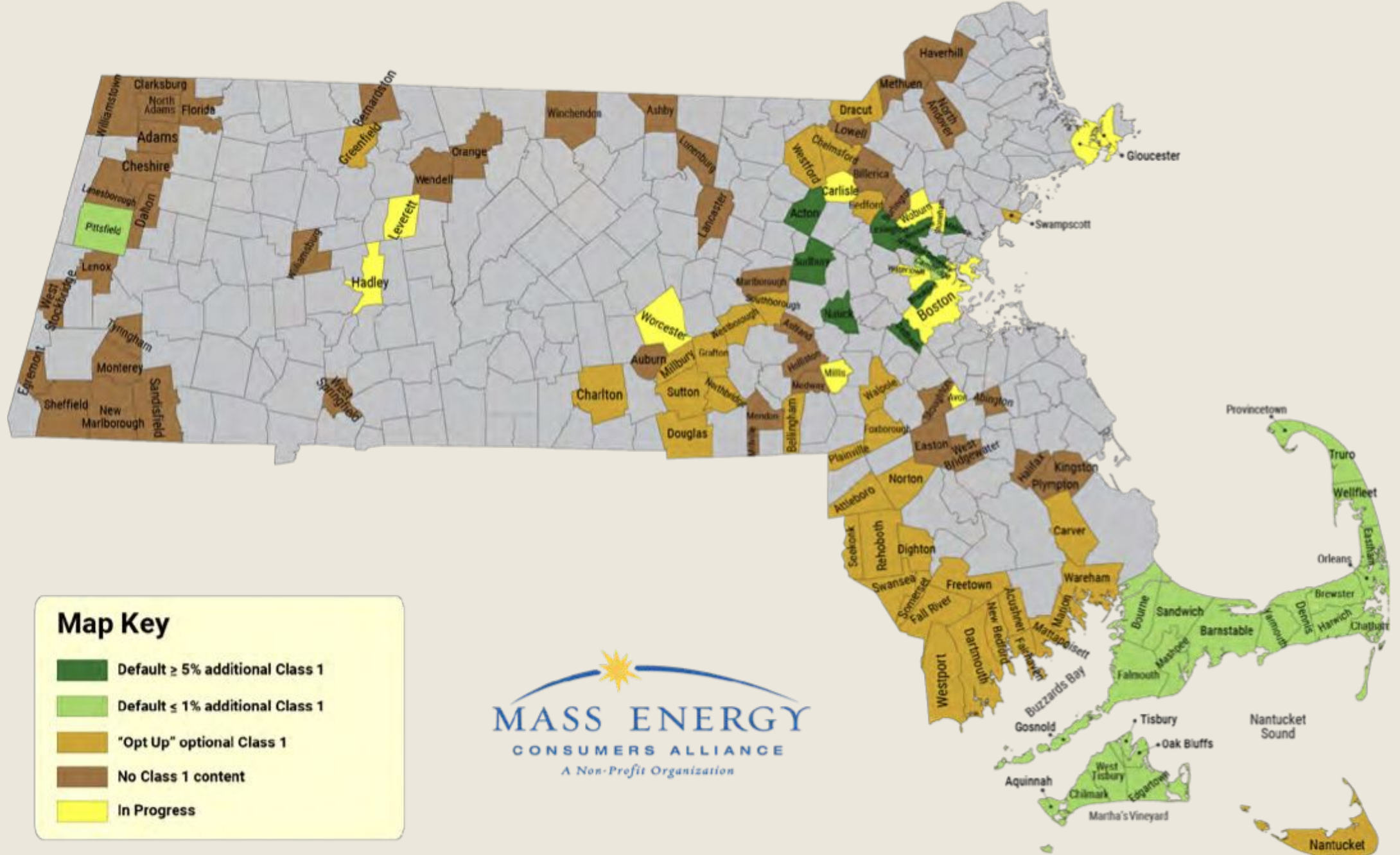


## Green Municipal Aggregation Rates

Town	Contract Length	Default Green (5%)	Opt-Up (100%)
Dedham	1/2018 - 1/2021	\$0.10272	\$0.12622
Somerville	7/2017 - 1/2020	\$0.10538	\$0.13198
Sudbury	8/2017 - 2/2020	\$0.10749	\$0.13124
Arlington	8/2017 - 2/2020	\$0.10756	\$0.13131
Winchester	7/2017 - 1/2020	\$0.10898	\$0.13558
Brookline	7/2017 - 1/2020	\$0.11098 (Default Green 25%)	\$0.13198
Eversource Basic Service rate \$0.12888 2/1/2018-6/30/2018			

Notice that the towns with GMA are paying less than basic service; although this is not guaranteed, it will be more likely as more green energy is added.

If approved, Northfield can join **FRCOG**  
towns of Buckland, Charlemont,  
Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, New  
Salem, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Warwick,  
for a **regional aggregation contract**.

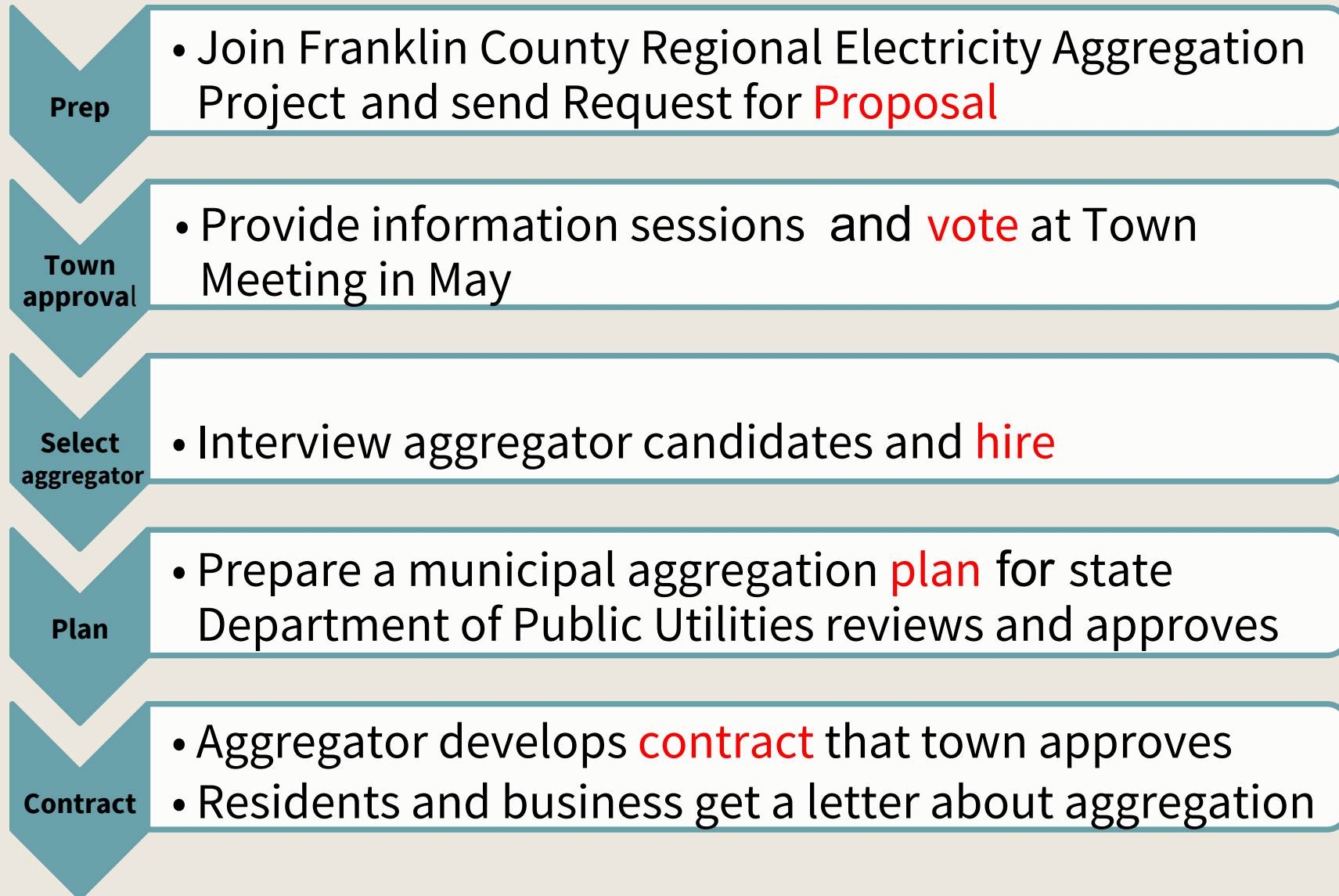




# Next Steps



# STEPS...



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are your questions and comments?





# How does aggregation impact my electricity bill?

- You will still receive a bill from Eversource and pay them.
- There is no change to your meter.
- All service and billings questions still go to Eversource
- Lower cost, while possible, cannot be guaranteed because there is no way to predict future rates. That said, several towns with GMA have lower rates than basic service! Participants will see no change in their utility bill other than a change in price on energy supply.

# Can a participant opt out?

Yes....individuals will be able to opt out at the beginning. Most contracts allow opting out at any time.

# What if I have a solar-panel system? Will my net metering rate stay the same?

There is no difference from how you currently interface with Eversource. Net metering will still be based on Eversource's basic service rate.



# What if I am interested in supporting even more than 5% green power supply ?

Some communities have negotiated an aggregation contract that includes an optional “**OPT UP**” for individual accounts. Those people can purchase additional green power supply, usually at just a slightly higher rate. In some cases, customers could “opt up” to 100% renewables, and still paid less than basic service from Eversource!

# How are we sure that a competent supplier will be selected?

- Only those licensed by the Commonwealth will be eligible to apply
- Built the request for proposal from template used by southeastern MA
- FRCOG's procurement specialist is involved
- Committee will review proposals and interview candidates and get references

# Resources

Chretien, Larry; Gibbons, Eugenia, Reid-Shaw, Indiana (2018). Green Municipal Aggregation in Massachusetts. <http://info.massenergy.org/gma-report>

Frequently asked questions for Mass CEA.  
<https://masscea.com/frequently-asked-questions/>